

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion and as presently amended is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 19, and 30 are amended without introduction of new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5, 14-15, 18-19, 20-21, 23-26, and 29-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Enright (U.S. Patent No. 6,583,813 B1); Claims 4, 6-9, 11-13, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Enright in view of Honda (U.S. Patent No. 6,606,451 B2); Claims 16-17 and 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Enright in view of Lewis (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,469); and Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being over Enright in view of Honda, and further in view of Lewis.

Addressing now the rejections of all claims, summarized above, as anticipated by or as unpatentable over Enright and the secondary references, those rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a filing system in which at least one data processing apparatus is connected to a file server via a transmission path. The filing system includes:

a data capturing unit which captures image data of a document into the data processing apparatus;

a data storing unit which stores the image data captured by the data capturing unit, onto an image storage medium;

an authorized user identifying unit which acquires a plurality of owner identifications, each of the plurality of owner identifications corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of entities, when the image data is captured by the data capturing unit;

an access management unit which correlates the owner identifications with the image data stored by the data storing unit, and allows the stored image data to be accessed when any of the owner identifications correlated with the image data are verified; and

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a data output unit which outputs the image data in a readable manner by retrieving the stored image data of the image storage medium when the access to the image data is allowed by the access management unit.

Thus, as recited, Claim 1 recites at least the following limitations: (1) a plurality of owner identifications, each corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of entities, are acquired when the image data of a document is captured; and (2) the plurality of owner identifications are correlated with the image data of the document. Amended independent Claims 19 and 30 recite limitations similar to limitations (1) and (2).

Initially, Applicants note that a description of the background art and several non-limiting examples of the present invention are provided in Applicants' remarks of the Amendment submitted January 26, 2004.

The outstanding Office Action cites only Enright as teaching the claimed "data capturing unit", "authorized user identifying unit", and "access management unit". Accordingly, only Enright is addressed with respect to limitations (1) and (2). The secondary references are not believed to cure the deficiencies of Enright.

With respect to the first limitation (1), the Office Action cites Enright at column 24, lines 7-45, as teaching the acquisition of a plurality of owner identifications when the image data of a document is captured. However, each of the plurality of identification data (e.g., voice scan data, iris scan data, etc.) disclosed within that passage are not "corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of entities" (as now clarified in independent Claims 1, 19, and 30), but are rather for a single user.¹ Secondly, the identification data is not acquired when the image of a document is captured, but is rather acquired when the image of a user is captured.²

With respect to the second limitation (2), the Office Action cites Enright at column 14, lines 49-67, and column 16, lines 1-20, as teaching the correlation of a plurality of owner

¹ Enright, col. 24, lines 36-45.

² Enright, col. 24, line 11.

identifications with the image data of a document. Again, Applicants note that there is no indication within the cited passages that each of the asserted "owner identifications" of Enright (e.g., digital signatures and passwords) are correlated with image data of a document; are acquired when the image data is captured; or correspond to a respective one of a plurality of entities. Moreover, the asserted "owner identifications" are not taught as "identifying" information. Rather, they are taught as authenticating information "which can be used to verify whether the image data has been tampered with since it was acquired".³

In sum, the claimed invention identifies which entities have authorization to access the imaged data, whereby each acquired "owner identification" corresponds to a separate entity granted such authorization. Further, the identification (i.e., acquisition of "owner identifications") contemporaneously occurs when the image data is captured. Conversely, the teachings of Enright authenticate (i.e., verify) the identity of an entity already having authorization to access data. Alternatively, the teachings of Enright merely authenticate the data itself.

Thereby, each of independent Claims 1, 19, and 30, and the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to positively recite features neither taught nor suggested by the applied art.

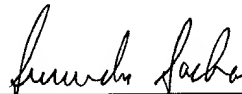
Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of independent Claims 1, 19, 30, and the claims depending therefrom, as anticipated by or unpatentable over Enright be withdrawn.

³ Enright, col. 14, lines 60-63.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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